

Pelican Island Audubon Society

Peligrum

- founded in 1964 to serve Indian River County -



P.O. Box 1833, VERO BEACH, FL 32961 772-567-3520 www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Our 52st Year Vol. 52 No. 5 May 2016

Our Mission: To preserve and protect the animals, plants, and natural communities in Indian River County through advocacy, education, and public awareness.

May 9, 2016 ❖ 6:00 p.m.

The Secret Life of the Florida Scrub-Jay
with Bob Montanaro

North Indian River County Library

1001 Sebastian Blvd. (CR 512), Sebastian

The Florida Scrub-Jay is an attractive and personable bird with many unique qualities. They are cooperative breeders often living in extended family groups with young from previous years staying around as helpers to help raise and care for the latest offspring. As Florida's only endemic bird they are found only in peninsular Florida and nowhere else in the world. They are fairly sedentary birds that do not travel very far and have evolved to live successfully in only one type of Florida habitat; oak scrub unique to the well-drained, dry, sandy conditions found in parts of central Florida and along the Atlantic coastal ridge---areas that are also highly prized by developers. Habitat loss is the bird's greatest enemy causing an almost 90% decline in population over the last one hundred years leading to the bird's designation as a threatened species back in 1987.

"The Secret Life of the Florida Scrub-Jay" brings to life the often-elusive behavior of these birds and why the preservation of their habitat is one of the best ways to preserve the Florida Scrub-Jay along with the myriad other species that make the scrub their home.

May 16, 2016 ❖ 7:30 p.m.

Wind, Water and Waves:

What's up with the Indian River Lagoon
with Steven Lazarus, Ph.D.

Vero Beach Community Center

2266 14th Avenue, Vero Beach

Dr. Steven Lazarus is a scientist at Florida Institute of Technology researching how the weather and the wind impact the Indian River Lagoon. Dr. Lazarus began his research career as an undergraduate assistant at Florida State University, from 1984-1985 before going on to complete his master's and Ph D. work at the University of Oklahoma. Tornado chasing during his graduate student years in Oklahoma augmented his work in the areas of modeling severe convection and data assimilation. He is a member of the American Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Union.

SAN JORGE ECO-LODGES

BIRDING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

DEDICATED TOURS IN ECUADOR SINCE 1989



Birding Trip to Ecuador Raffle!!!
Tickets available soon!

4 Night/5 Day Deluxe Magic Birding Circuit Tour package for (2) two people, based on double occupancy.

Tour dates to choose from:

December 2 - 6, 2016; January 16 - 20, 2017; February 16 - 20, 2017; March 2 - 6, 2017; October 2 - 6, 2017; November 2 - 6, 2017

Example of Itinerary

Day One - Evening airport to San Jorge Eco-Lodge & Botanical Reserve/Quito; overnight San Jorge de Quito Lodge, no meals included

Day Two - Yanacocha old road, Nono Tandayapa Road (HIGHLAND RAINFOREST/CLOUD FOREST), overnight San Jorge de Tandayapa Lodge, includes 3 meals

Day Three - Birding San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Sanctuary, Lower Tandayapa Valley (CLOUD FOREST), overnight San Jorge de Tandayapa Lodge, includes 3 meals

Day Four - Birding Milpe Road, overnight San Jorge de Milpe Lodge, includes 3 meals

Day Five - Birding San Jorge de Milpe Orchid & Bird Reserve (UPPER TROPICAL RAINFOREST), later afternoon transfer to San Jorge Eco-Lodge & Botanical Reserve/Quito for dinner. Relax in restaurant or lounge until evening airport transfer, includes 3 meals. The winner may then choose from a selection of our pre-scheduled tour dates listed below, which are all in prime birding season offering the most birds and hummingbirds, and visiting 3 of our private birding reserves and lodges. Winner can add additional days to their trip at their own expense.

Tickets will launch mid-May;

check back on our website

PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Or see a board member!

Upcoming Events & Field Trips

Call 772-567-3520 for reservations and directions.

May 14 - Bee Gum Point with Jim Shea

Masthead photo: Red-bellied Woodpecker by Bob Montanaro.

Bird of the Month by Juanita Baker

While near lakes, marshes, canals, and other waterbodies where reeds, cattails, water lilies, and water hyacinth grow at water's edge, you might be startled by a loud, harsh "Kraaa," or repeated cackle. Soon, a Common Gallinule (previously named a Moorhen), likely will appear as it frequents those habitats.

Common Gallinules forage for seeds, plants, snails, and insects, as this one is doing amongst water lettuce in the photo taken by Bob Montanaro with a Canon EOS 20D, 400 mm lens. The size of a small duck, and often mistaken for one, Gallinules swim with a jerky motion as it does not have webbed feet. Long yellow legs and spread toes allow it to walk on top of lily pads.

Look at its beak carefully - it is not a duckbill but is pointed, with an unusual squared shield covering its forehead. This brilliant scarlet red and yellow-tipped shield is intensely colored when breeding from March to May, but fades thereafter. In ancient Hawaiian legend, a Gallinule brought fire to humankind; in doing so, its forehead became scorched red.

A Florida game bird, Common Gallinules (but not the rarer Purple Gallinule) are hunted in September and October. The Common Gallinule is widespread in warmer climates of Europe, Africa, Asia, and many islands. Our resident Gallinules occur in our wetlands year-round, although thousands of migrants come through from September to March. Birds captured in Florida during migration were banded in New York, Ontario and the Great Lakes region, west to Iowa and Missouri and south to Louisiana, suggesting that Florida is a major refueling point/wintering ground on migration. Because Florida is a critical stop-over for many species, much of North America depends on us to protect our natural food resources and habitats for birds.

View a large color image and learn how to enter your own photos at www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org



Common Gallinule © 2016 Bob Montanaro

Two very lucky hawks by Linda Chancellor

Windows are beautiful for allowing us to see the world outside our homes but we also know they can be a distraction and hazard to birds and other animals. Many BWC (bird-window collisions), may be the result of reflection of habitat i.e. the reflection of a tree appears to be a real tree to a bird.

My friend, Suzanne, recently had a bird-window collision happen at her home and relayed to me the following story. She had not seen the impact but had heard the sound of a crash. Two large birds had smashed into the picture window of her living room. The impact had sent crashing to the floor the life size metal cutout cat, that had been hanging in the window, along with the small heavy fish that had held it in place. She was amazed that the window had not broken. One of the birds had rebounded about 12 feet from the house and after collecting itself flew off to the west. The other one, after a few minutes, regained its footing and then stood there for awhile. She could tell it was a hawk.



When the hawk seemed more alert she opened the front door. At the sound of that he flew up to the nearby African tulip tree and then she heard him call a few times. She had managed to take a photo of the stunned hawk through her window and thought it might be a broad tail hawk. I sent the photo to Pelican Island Audubon and they identified it as a Cooper's hawk. Both hawks were very lucky to have survived the impact.

FYI: Many bird fatalities result from collisions with windows. If you have large windows or windows that allow views through the house, there are several things you can do to reduce collisions. Audubon recommends putting up screens, closing your drapes and blinds when you leave the house or sticking multiple decals on the glass (decals need to be two to four inches apart). There are many sources for decals but the March/April Audubon magazine has an ad for decals from abirdseyeview.com. There is also an article on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website dealing with BWCs. Search for "Why birds hit windows and how you can prevent it."

Like Pelican Island Audubon on Facebook at www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org for all the latest news and information



NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

Make a note that Pelican Island Audubon has a new e-mail address: **PIAudubon@yahoo.com**

Dear Friend:

I wanted you to be the first to hear some exciting news from Pelican Island Audubon Society. This past school year we were able to provide an exceptional 'After-school Audubon Advocate Pilot Program' for forty-eight, 5th grade students from 4 underserved South County schools on a 'shoestring'. We received a Merit Grant from Impact 100, a used school bus from Indian River County School District and raised additional funds through donations from folks like you.

We would like to continue these nature training experiences beginning with Summer Outdoor Adventure Program (8-17), Junior Guide Program (ages 12-17), and then to continue and expand our After-school Audubon Advocate Program (5th grade students). These children become better citizen scientists, environmental citizens, and learn to be protectors/advocates of the Indian River Lagoon.

The pictures are of students, (sometimes for the first time) setting foot in a kayak, walking on a nature trail, seining a nursery of creatures in the mangroves, seeing a manatee with its young, experiencing the outdoors & journaling their experiences, working as a citizen science team member, studying the effects of climate change and pollution in the Indian River Lagoon. As they become **Audubon Advocates** for the future health of our community.

Your generous support helps us provide better than good, **Exceptional Outdoor Nature Enriched Programs**. Thank you for the difference you are making in the lives of these students.

Please send your tax-deductible contribution TODAY to: Pelican Island Audubon Society, so we can continue to do this important work.

To thank you for your gift, we will send you an exclusive invitation to an Audubon Advocate Members Day at the Audubon House to observe our program in action.

Thank you for your commitment to the students and for helping us fulfill our mission.

Sincerely,
Donna M. Halleran
1st Vice-President



Pelican Island Audubon Society Contribution Form

YES! I want to be a part of the Audubon Advocate Programs in 2016. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift!

\$50 \$75 \$100 Your best gift \$ _____

Please make your checks payable to "Pelican Island Audubon Society"
or donate online using PayPal at <http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org/donate.html>

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

Please return form in enclosed envelope with your check. *Thank you!*

Pelican Island Audubon Society Officers & Directors

Officers: President **Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.**, 1st Vice-President **Donna Halleran**, 2nd Vice-President **David Cox, Ph.D.**, Recording Secretary **Darlene Halliday**, Corresponding Secretary **George Glenn**, Treasurer **Steve Goff** — Elected Directors: **Graham Cox, Ph.D. '17**, **Nancy Irvin '19**, **Bill Loftus, Ph.D. '18**, **Toni Robinson '19**, **Bonnie Swanson '18** — Appointed Board Members: **Bill Halliday**, **Tina Marchese**, **Karen Schuster**
Pelican Island Audubon Society, Inc. is registered with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Div. of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within Florida 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

Birds migrate-and members can too!
Please consider “migrating” up to one of our Sustainable Memberships- Scrub-jay (\$100) or Osprey (\$200).

Anyone who contributes \$100 or \$200 per year to the Annual Fund is automatically recognized as a Pelican Island Audubon Society Sustaining or Double Sustaining Member. Think about a \$25 or \$50 per quarter donation, which works out to only \$2 to \$4 a week to support our mission.

Sustaining Members are critical to the Society. If every Society member contributed \$100 or \$200 every year, PIAS could increase its efforts to help fulfill our mission in Indian River County and support the continued growth of our programs. This is a tax-deductible contribution to a 501(c)(3) organization and includes your membership renewal to Pelican Island Audubon!

- \$100 Florida Scrub-Jay Level \$200 Osprey Level

Other Annual Membership Options:

- \$20 Individual \$30 Family

Is this a membership renewal? Yes No

- Join National Audubon Society for an additional \$20 a year.

- I want to make an additional tax deductible donation of \$ _____

Total \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-Mail _____

Please send your name and address along with a check payable to the “Pelican Island Audubon Society” to:

Pelican Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1833, Vero Beach, FL 32961

or join online using your credit card at:

<http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org/membership.html>

Questions: call 772-567-3520 or e-mail piaudubon@yahoo.com

Plant of the Month by Janice Broda
Fabulous False Indigo

False indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) is now in fabulous flower along the banks of the St. Sebastian River at Cypress Bend Community Preserve. This plant grows in moist areas, often along river banks, throughout the U.S. into Canada and Mexico.

Golden anthers encased in deep, deep purple floral tubes grace the showy terminal inflorescences that appear in spring not long after this deciduous plant regains its delicate pinnate leaves. Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators nectar on its flowers.

Both its genus name *amorpha* (meaning amorphous) and its species name *fruticosa* (meaning shrubby) refer to its growth habit. False indigo grows to be a tall, open shrub to 12' in shady conditions and assumes a rounder more compact form in full sun. It serves as a larval host plant for the silver-spotted skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*), the hoary edge skipper (*Achalarus lyciades*), and the gray hairstreak butterfly (*Strymon melinus*).

Tolerant of poor or rich soil, partial sun or shade, and occasional inundation, false indigo makes a rugged landscape plant with spectacular spikes of spring flowers.

